

**Resident Assistant****NASA Astrobiology Academy
2003**

mhannon@alumni.nd.edu

After an excellent summer of 2002 with the NASA Astrobiology Academy, I simply could not pass up the opportunity to come back and join the 2003 crew. It will be a privilege working with all of you, and I am surely looking forward to it.

I graduated in May 2002 from the University of Notre Dame with a BS in mechanical engineering. During NAABA2K2, I worked with Dr. Robert Whalen in the Musculoskeletal Biomechanics Lab. As my research task I investigated the role that the fibula plays in the structural integrity of the lower limb, and developed a family of mechanical models of the tibia/fibula system.

I was set to begin my work towards a master's degree in biomechanics this past fall, but shifted gears somewhat. Thanks in no small part to my exposure to the life sciences over the summer, I decided to study organic chemistry and biology and prepare myself to apply to medical school. I plan to enter medical school in the fall of 2004.

Aside from academics, I have always enjoyed spending my free time in the outdoors. I am a proud recipient of the Eagle Scout award. I am a New Yorker originally, and had not spent much time out west prior to last summer. I quickly learned that northern California is a pretty awesome place. I love to snowboard and the '02' reunion at Squaw Valley in January was outstanding. Yes, I did take Julie on a black diamond on her second day of skiing...but that story is for another time, I am sure it will get told this summer. Last summer I even picked up a little on wakeboarding (essentially the water analog to snowboarding). I am up for any outdoor adventures. I am also a big fan of Notre Dame football.

I am highly anticipating the start of our summer, as well as meeting and getting to know all of you. Take care until then.